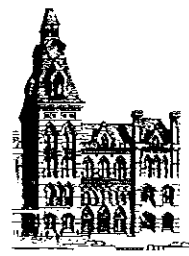




John DeStefano, Jr.
Mayor

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**Testimony of the City of New Haven
Before the Commerce Committee**

Regarding

**HB 6070
AN ACT CONCERNING FUNDING FOR A STREET GRID SYSTEM
IN THE NEW HAVEN MEDICAL DISTRICT**

Submitted by
Rebecca Bombero
City of New Haven
February 14, 2013

The City of New Haven would like to express support for HB 6070, an act concerning funding for a new street grid system in the New Haven medical district. The medical district is located within the Hill neighborhood and is home to two of the state's most important economic drivers, the Yale University School of Medicine and Yale-New Haven Hospital. As global leaders in health care and medical research, these institutions are catalysts for job growth. This district has approximately 11,600 jobs, just in the medical research field alone, and is poised to nearly double in size over the next 10 years. This growth will generate significant economic output for the State and further anchor Connecticut's bioscience "triangle of investment" with Farmington and Storrs.

That potential, however, cannot be realized without an early investment in the public infrastructure and special attention to the district's neighborhood setting. The area is best known as a tangled maze of disconnected streets left over from the Oak Street Urban Renewal Plan. At that time, many hundreds of New Haven residents were displaced and the land area south of Route 34 was left mainly undeveloped. Today, approximately 40% of the land area consists of surface parking lots. To facilitate community and economic reinvestment, the City recently developed a concept for a new street grid which better connects the Hill to Downtown. The new district is envisioned to be a mixed-use, pedestrian-friendly urban neighborhood that seamlessly blends transit-oriented, institutional, commercial and residential development. As with our Downtown and neighborhoods, the medical district can be a vibrant destination for living, working, and visiting.

With state funding support, the City will be able to more fully develop the plan into detailed design specifications. In doing so, the public infrastructure elements will be ready-to-go for construction and, in turn, the district will be better positioned for future economic development opportunities. Thank you for your time and consideration of this important job-creating initiative.